



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

June 6, 2000

H.R. 3906

Department of Energy Security Oversight Improvement Act of 2000

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Commerce on May 17, 2000

SUMMARY

H.R. 3906 would direct the Secretary of Energy to maintain an Office of Independent Security Oversight. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost about \$20 million a year, subject to appropriation of the necessary funds. The office would be responsible for evaluating the effectiveness of security policies, programs, and practices (including computer security) throughout the Department of Energy (DOE). H.R. 3906 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

In addition to other duties, the office would be charged with evaluating the security of programs that involve significant amounts of nuclear material or classified information at least once every two years, and evaluating classified and unclassified computer security at least once every 18 months. The bill would require DOE to report the findings of these evaluations to the Congress every year.

The bill would authorize an office very similar to one that was already established by the Secretary of Energy in May of 1999, and which received an appropriation of \$20 million for fiscal year 2000. This office is carrying out the activities that are called by the legislation. Currently, the office is organized under the Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety, and Health, but under this legislation, it would report directly to the Secretary.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 3906 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 050 (defense) and 270 (energy).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority ^a	20	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	13	6	1	0	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	20	21	21	22	22
Estimated Outlays	0	13	20	21	22	22
Spending Under H.R. 3906						
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	20	20	21	21	22	22
Estimated Outlays	13	19	21	21	22	22

a. The 2000 level is the amount appropriated for that year for DOE's existing Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

CBO estimates that the continuation of the security functions now performed by DOE's Office of Independent Oversight and Performance Assurance would cost \$98 million over the 2001-2005 period, assuming annual adjustments for anticipated inflation. Without such adjustments for anticipated inflation, we estimate that continuing the work of this office would cost \$93 million over the next five years.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 3906 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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